

Chapter 13

Cumulative Effects and Interdisciplinary Analysis

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Comment I-5.004

... the EIS fails to adequately evaluate the full impact of this proposed mining operation ... King County must perform a more comprehensive cumulative impact analysis ...

Davis, Jennifer

Comment I-7.003

... EIS considers each potential impact separately, and dismisses the consequences ... When considered independently the impacts may appear small, but the whole impact may be ... greater than the sum of many small impacts.

Meyer, Michael

Comment

The EIS disconnectedly discusses: Air Quality; Geology And Hydrogeology; Terrestrial Plants And Animals; Marine Habitat And Fisheries; Noise; Transportation; Land And Shoreline Use; Environmental Health And Safety; Light, Glare And Aesthetics; Recreation, in each case concluding: “no significant environmental impacts” for each of these arbitrary divisions of the island’s ecosystem. The genius of an ecosystem is in its interworkings, interdependencies and interrelationships. Where, when and how will King County DDES evaluate the proposed strip mine’s effects upon the interdependencies of the natural environment of Maury Island? How is it possible to examine isolated elements and thereby reliably predict the total effect upon the island ecosystem?

Kuperberg, Joel

Comment

The draft EIS fails to analyze the cumulative effects of the strip mine on Vashon/Maury Islands.

Saunders, Karen and Peter

Response

A new chapter has been added to FEIS that directly responds to these comments. Chapter 13 evaluates the sum of all adverse impacts, as well as the interrelationship among the various elements of the environment.

Comment I-7.002

... Draft EIS does not appear to include an additional factor of safety in its analysis to account for the fact that the proposal is planned for an island environment.

Meyer, Michael

Response

The island setting of the project has greatly influenced the analysis. Chapter 4 includes a detailed evaluation of groundwater, which is one of the prime concerns on islands, since they have limited watersheds. In many ways, the fact that the site is on an island has created greater concern across all aspects of the environment. Islands also create a sense of community, as evidenced by the tremendous effort put forth by the Vashon/Maury Island community to oppose the project. In addition to effects on the analysis, the island setting and sensitivity are reflected in the many additional mitigation measures that have been developed for consideration by the decision-maker.

Comment I-10.002

A 50 foot setback ... is insufficient ... a buffer of 200 feet around the site is more appropriate.

Adams, Charles

Response

The decision-maker will consider additional setbacks.

Comment I-11.011

The scope of the proposed project is ... out of proportion to the size of Maury Island and is not consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan ...

Parrish, Elizabeth/Rees, John

Response

Comment noted. Please see Chapter 9 of the FEIS for a discussion of consistency with the King County Comprehensive Plan.

Comment

It is our understanding that Lone Star is currently before a grand jury in Oregon for pollution in Oregon City. We ask that the corporate history be considered in any permit decision made by King County. Other issues which King County needs to consider in relation to the Lone Star proposal are quality of life for islanders when they will be required to live next to or near a massive strip mine and loss of property values.

Saunders, Karen and Peter

Response Comment noted. Addressing the corporate history of the Applicant is beyond the scope of this EIS, which is required only to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed project. The EIS Team did conduct a site visit of the Applicant's Dupont site, and conducted dives to evaluate spilling. Monitoring and reporting are good ways to offset uncertainties of whether or not an operator will follow project conditions and environmental laws. Several provisions for monitoring and reporting are included in the FEIS for consideration by the decision-maker.

Comment The noise, dust and change from a rural environment to an industrial one IF the proposed expansion of the mine is permitted, will irrevocably alter the islands' quality of life.
Saunders, Karen and Peter

Response Many people have stated that mining is not acceptable in a rural environment. However, mining is part of the rural environment, as discussed in the King County Comprehensive Plan. People who live in rural areas should also expect logging and agricultural activities. As more and more people move into rural areas, conflicts between these traditional uses increase.

The Growth Management Act included measures to identify important natural resource lands and to avoid residential development that may conflict with the use of these lands. Most of the site perimeter at Maury Island is low-density, but the nearby high-density communities raise many issues about the development of the site.

Comment The proposal by Lone Star N.W. to expand its open pit mine operation 1000 fold, if permitted, would remove over 1/10th the area of Maury island. The cumulative effects of this proposal would be extremely destructive for a six square mile island. The scope of the potential damage extends from the aquifer, to destruction of salmon habitat, madrone forests and wildlife habitat.
Means, Gary

Response Mining would not change the island's land surface area. Please see the response to other comments above for a discussion of cumulative effects.

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